

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Photo courtesy of Jodi Kellis



July 2017

Kicking off summer with Biodiversity Basics Day Camp!

### **Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities** *Volunteers especially needed for:*

**Field Trip Helpers** (July 21st, 9AM-Noon)—Assistants needed to run stations at a fun summer program.

**Monarch Monitors** (flexible)—Survey and collect data to contribute to Monarch conservation.

**AmeriCorps Members** (Sept-Aug 2018)—The Refuge is taking applications for three AmeriCorps positions.

### **What's New?**

Have you noticed a new structure high above the Observation Hill Trail? As an Eagle Scout Project, Wayne M. constructed the bat rocket box, and also placed other bat boxes at various other Refuge sites. These boxes will provide bats with suitable nesting and roosting sites in thanks for their help with pest control. If you are walking the trails in the evening, keep an eye out to see if a bat flies out!

### **Cheers!**

Thanks to the fantastic volunteers that braved the storm at our Kids' Fishing Day event! Despite ending early due to poor weather, we were able to reel in over 200 visitors and gave away great prizes. Thanks also to the Friends of Deer Flat, Kids' First Cast, and donors for bringing this event back to the shores of Gotts Point!



*Kids of all ages love to fish!  
Photo courtesy of Janice Engle*

### **Around the Water Cooler**

Our environmental education partnership with the Caldwell School District is growing! Danielle, EE AmeriCorps member, is leading the effort to develop a 4th grade curriculum to get kids outside learning about ecology. "It's a big project," she says, "and I could use some help from some educators to review lesson plans and assist with some other tasks as well." Contact us if you would like to volunteer with this developing program!

### **Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge**

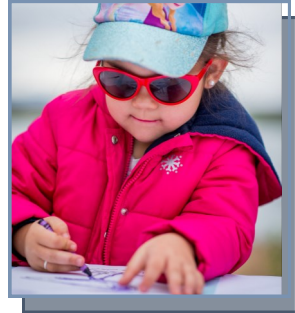
The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports Refuge activities like Kids' Fishing Day. Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible. Email [friendsofdfwr@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdfwr@gmail.com) for more info.



## **Upcoming Events**

***Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center.***

**Reading at the Refuge—July 17 and August 7, 10a and 2p.** Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time. Create a craft and explore around the Visitor Center!



*Fun crafts at Kids' Fishing Day.  
Photos courtesy of Robert Allen*

## **Don't-miss Volunteer Opportunities!**

***Think you might not have the skills needed to help? Don't worry! Training is provided.***

**Field Trip Helpers—July 21, 9AM-Noon.** Give our Environmental Educators an extra hand with one of our summer field trips. Volunteers to help lead or co-lead stations.

**Monarch Monitoring—Monitoring times flexible.** Monarch butterfly populations have declined drastically. Be a citizen scientist! Monitor a Refuge milkweed patch for eggs, caterpillars, and adult butterflies. Training provided.

**AmeriCorps Members—September 2017-August 2018.** The Refuge is taking applications to fill two Environmental Educators and one Volunteer Coordinator AmeriCorps positions. 11-month, full-time positions. Contact Susan (susan\_kain@fws.gov) for more information!

## **Other Opportunities to Help**

We need some extra-large, button-down shirts to keep children clean during messy activities.

**SIBA Meeting—July 13, 7pm.** Join the Southwest Idaho Birder's Association for their monthly meeting. Speaker, Dirk Anderson will present on the history of beavers in North America.

## **Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

**Visitor Counting Surveyor—2 hours in the morning (8a -noon), 6 times per month (4 weekdays and 2 weekends).** Fill brochure boxes and count Refuge visitors by driving around the lake in a Refuge vehicle. Data is used to estimate total Refuge visitation.

**Visitor Center Landscaping—Ongoing, flexible times.** Help keep the wildlife-friendly Visitor Center landscaping looking pretty for visitors.

**Maintenance Crew/Weed Warriors—Flexible, ongoing opportunities from spring to fall.** Help improve wildlife habitat by battling invasive weeds and completing other refuge maintenance projects. Seeking volunteer groups as well as individuals.

**SEEDS Assistants—September 2017.** Be a part of our new Students Exploring the Environment and Discovering Science (SEEDS) program this fall! Volunteers needed to lead or co-lead field trips and schoolyard activities for 4th graders. Training will be provided. Help these SEEDS grow!